

April 25, 2023

WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN NEPAL: A MODEL FOR THE WORLD



Introduction

On April 25, 2023, a 3-hour workshop on community conservation in Nepal was hosted by [Community Conservation](#) and co-hosted by [Greenhood Nepal](#), [Nature Conservation and Study Centre](#), and [Community Conservation Nepal](#). The purpose was to discuss our various approaches to community conservation, learn from each other, and discuss if there's a need for a group in Nepal focused on highlighting community conservation both to improve our own work and to share the lessons more broadly.

Workshop Description

Time: 8-11 am, Tuesday, 25 April 2023

Place: Sap Falcha, Kathmandu, Nepal

Goal: To bring together interested organizations and individuals in Nepal who work directly with communities to conserve biodiversity

Objectives:

- Learn from each other's experiences
- Discuss creating a network or platform to share Nepal's experiences and success in community conservation
- Capture lessons learned and future goals of community conservation in Nepal

Description

This workshop was intended to bring together key organizations and individuals in Nepal who are working with communities to conserve biodiversity and to explore approaches for community management and governance of biodiversity as well as technical capacity of communities to monitor, survey, and camera trap biodiversity. This workshop was not about livelihood-focused activities or economic benefits derived from biodiversity that do not include or incorporate community conservation of biodiversity.

Hosts:

Kumar Paudel, [Greenhood Nepal](#)

Jeevan Rai, [Nature Conservation and Study Centre](#)

Birendra Mahato, [Community Conservation Nepal](#)

Dr. Teri Allendorf, [Community Conservation](#)

Participants:

Naresh Kusi, Himalayan Wolves Project

Shristy Singh Shrestha, Jane Goodall Institute in Nepal

Sujan Khanal, FECOFUN

Prakash Shrestha, Nepal Tiger Trust

Gauri Malakar, Nepal Tiger Trust

Anand Chaudhary, unaffiliated

DB Chaudhari, BCN vulture conservation

Ankit B Joshi, BCN

Anuska Sharma, ZSL

Participant presentations

Each participant gave short informal presentations about their organization's work based on the following questions:

1. Background: Why do you work with communities and how long have you been working with communities?
2. Where: How do you choose the communities you work with?
3. How: What is their process for working with communities? E.g., how do you initiate a relationship with communities?
4. What sorts of activities do you focus on? E.g., research, awareness and education, training and capacity-building, policy, and/or governance and management.
5. Highlights: outcomes and successes, lessons learned to date

Key issues raised

Following the presentations, the following issues arose during the open discussion about community conservation in Nepal, in no particular order. These could be some of the key issues we discuss in a future workshop/conference.

- Community-managed conservation projects should go to next level and be community-led
- Need to build on intrinsic motivations
 - It is important to use a process that builds on intrinsic motivations and that encourages intrinsic motivations.
- Ecosystems versus species-specific projects
 - How do we balance these within communities? How many species-specific projects and trainings can a community absorb?
- Need to integrate biodiversity conservation and management into community forestry
 - E.g. Vulture conservation plans have been included in community forest plans.
- Issue of politicization of community conservation groups
 - E.g. CBAPUs in Chitwan
- Need to compile specific concrete solutions for issues facing communities that should be widely known and supported, not only project-based: e.g., financial support for CBAPUs, predator-proof enclosures, grain storage houses, electric fences, etc.
- Role of external organizations to help communities adapt to rapid social and environmental change, including climate change.
- What is the relationship between conservation and livelihoods? There are few examples of successful integration. What approach is most effective and sustainable?

Agenda

8-8:20 am Welcome from Dr. Teri Allendorf and introductions

8:20-10:00 am Short informal presentations from each participant/organization describing their experiences with communities

6. Background: Why do you work with communities and how long have you been working with communities?
7. Where: How do you choose the communities you work with?
8. How: What is their process for working with communities? E.g., how do you initiate a relationship with communities?
9. What sorts of activities do you focus on? E.g., research, awareness and education, training and capacity-building, policy, and/or governance and management.
10. Highlights: outcomes and successes, lessons learned to date

10-10:30 am Discussion around building a network to support community conservation

1. Summarize presentations above
2. Is there a perceived need for a network or platform to share Nepal's experiences and success in community conservation?
3. What are the main lessons learned and future goals of community conservation in Nepal that we as a group could contribute to?
4. Next steps

10:30-11 am Continue discussion over lunch

11 am Closing